Title: Need to assist State Government of Andhra Pradesh to prevent spread of the deadly Japanese encephalitis disease. -Laid

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH): Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh is battling to control the deadly Japanese Encephalitis which has already claimed over 100 lives so far - mostly children. The disease is now spreading to the Telengana region and Hyderabad city. Five deaths were reported from the Government hospitals in Hyderabad. The fever was earlier confined to some pockets of Mahabubnagar, Warangal, Medak and Karimnagar districts, but has now spread to most of the Telengana districts.

Government data showed that there were 984 cases of Japanese Encephalitis, including 247 deaths in Andhra Pradesh in 1997 and 524 cases, including 201 deaths in 1998. Even though the death toll this year is less compared to the previous years, the Japanese Encephalitis is spreading with multiplier effect to other districts in the State, causing concern to the administration. The medical department in the State is unable to fight the diseases. Hundreds of tribals have died in Adilabad and other districts in the past due to a `mysterious fever"" that stalked the tribal belt.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to help the State Government and also send Central expert team to the State for urgent advice in meeting the situation.